Met Office

NEWS

2020 - a remarkable year

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2020 was notable for being ranked in the top ten for mean temperature, rainfall, and sunshine.

Early figures show it was the third warmest year in records dating back to 1884, beaten only by 2014 and 2006, and marginally warmer than 2011. It was also provisionally the sixth wettest year for the UK in records back to 1862, and the 8th sunniest year since 1919.

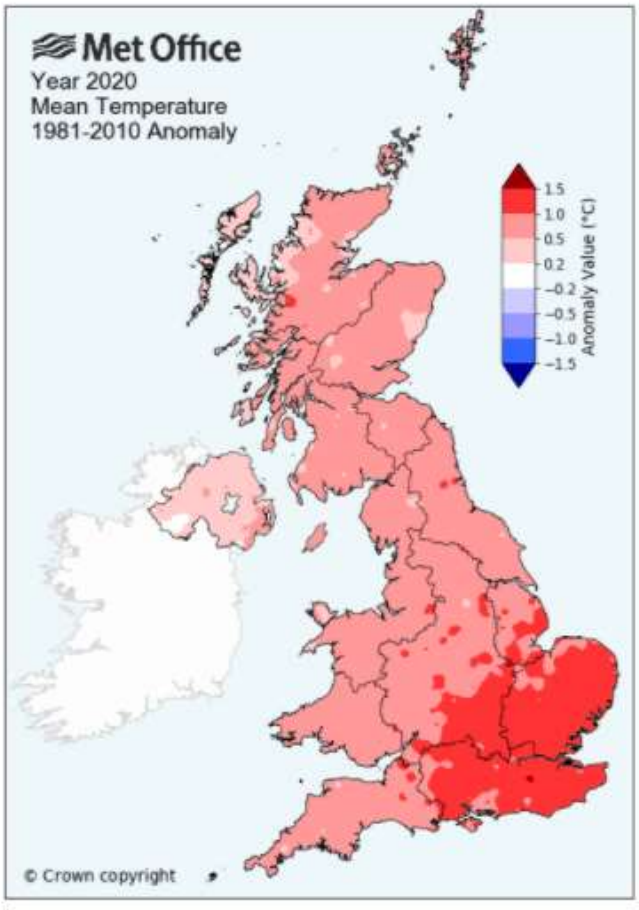
Professor Peter Stott, a Met Office research Fellow in climate change attribution, said: "All top-ten warmest years on record for the UK have occurred since 2002, and 2020 has continued to be consistent with this pattern. The general trend of warming as a consequence of climate change is clearly to be seen, not just at a global level, but in our own national temperature records too."

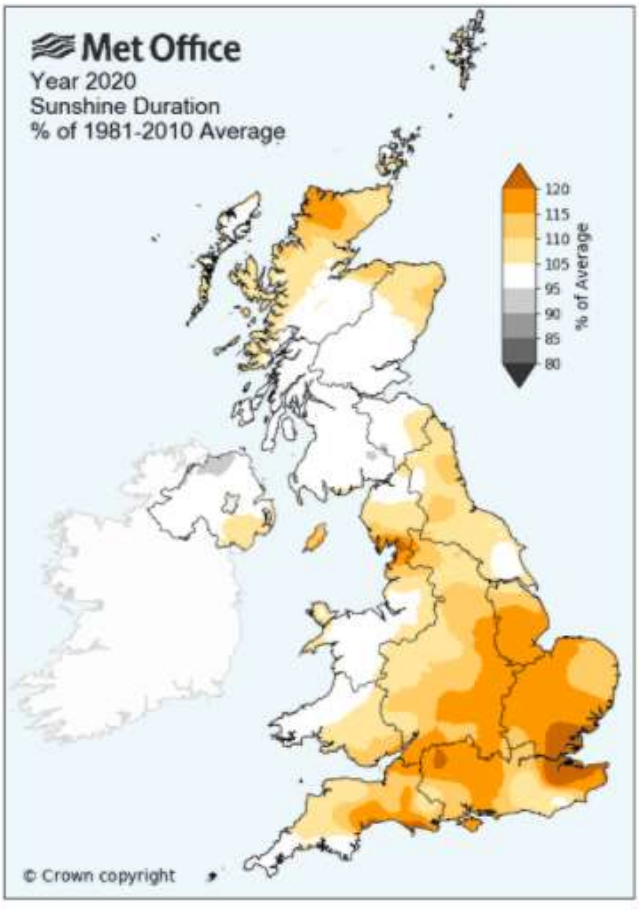
Area	Mean Temp (24-hour average)		Rainfall		Sunshine	
	° C	Difference from average	mm	% compared to average	Hours	% compared to average
UK	9.62	0.77	1308.1	114	1495.2	109
England	10.58	0.92	953.8	112	1680.2	113
Wales	9.92	0.79	1680.4	115	1471.4	105
Scotland	8.00	0.58	1796.6	115	1233.0	104
Northern Ireland	9.30	0.38	1307.4	115	1272.8	101

For more information on the weather events of 2020, take a look back at 2020.

December statistics

December 2020 was generally an unsettled and mild month, but some colder spells brought us a white Christmas with parts of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland seeing snowfall on the 25th.





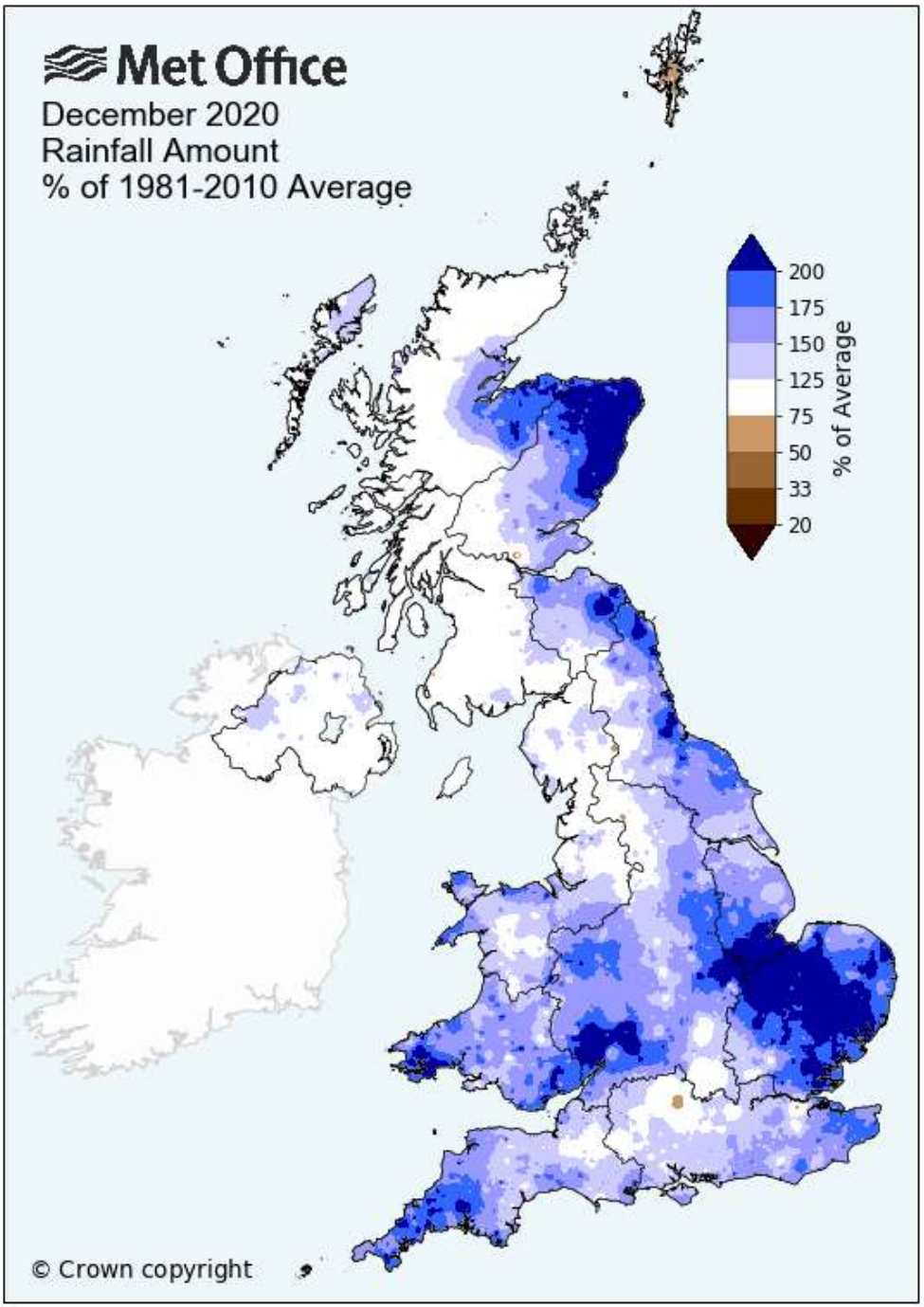
Rainfall

All regions of the UK received more than their expected average rainfall with some eastern areas actually exceeding their normal December rainfall by the middle of the month. South England and Wales received the most rainfall with Wales receiving 155% (256.2mm) and South England 162% (131mm). The only regions closer to normal were Western Scotland 105% (199.2mm) and Northern Ireland 113% (129mm).

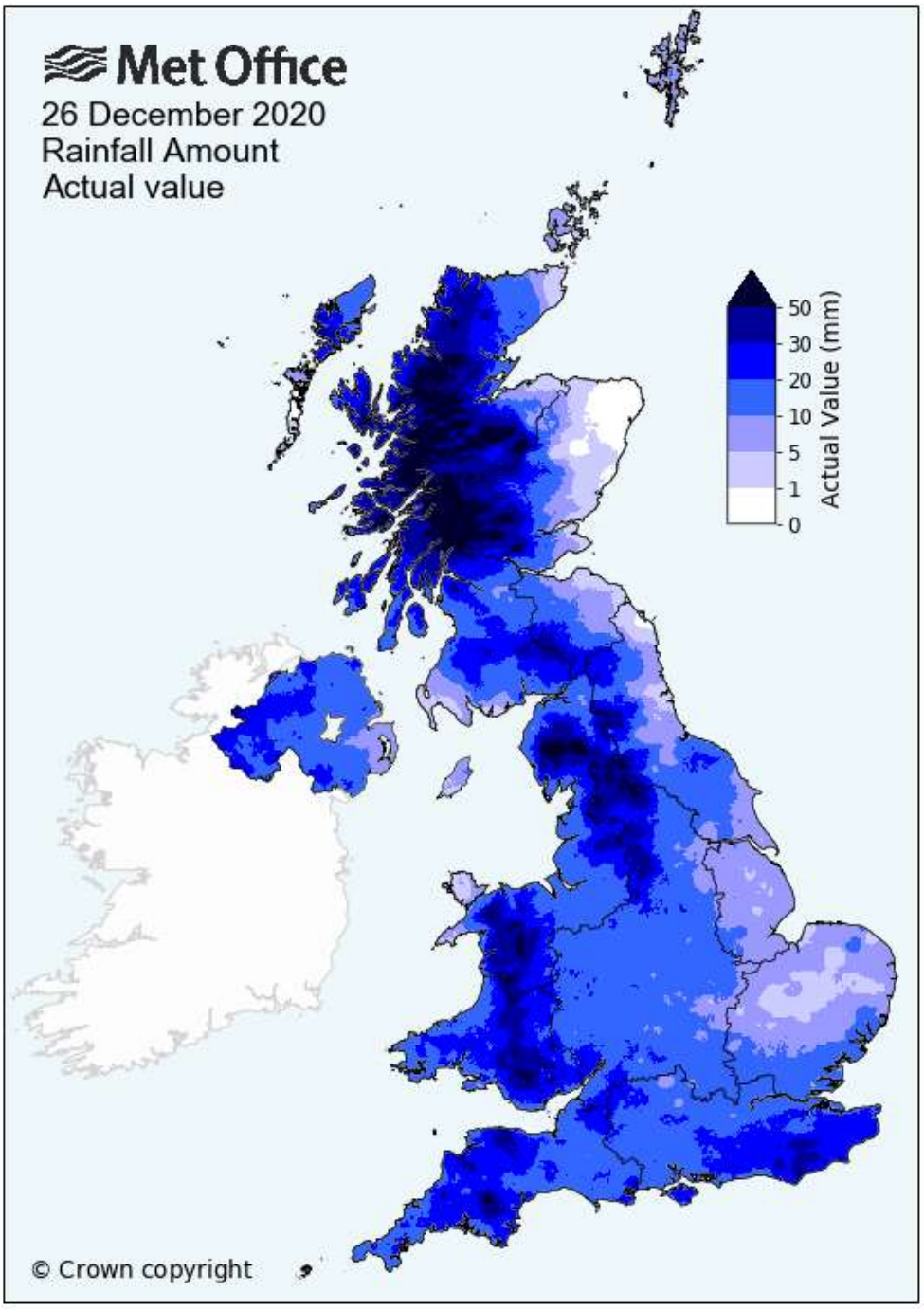
It was a particularly wet month across parts of north-east Scotland and East Anglia with more than twice the normal rainfall in places. Writtle in Essex had its wettest December in 87 years while Cardiff also had a wet month with its wettest December in 72 years.

Provisional December figures for rainfall

Area	Actual rainfall	% of the December average
UK	162.1mm	135
England	130.6mm	150
Wales	256.2mm	155
Scotland	195.6mm	120
Northern Ireland	129.0mm	113



Heavy rains led to flooding in Bedfordshire on Christmas Eve with homes being evacuated. Storm Bella brought more heavy rain and strong winds to parts of the UK on December 26th with a wind gust of 106 mph being recorded on the Isle of Wight, the highest gust recorded in 2020. The map below shows the amount of rainfall on the 26th December.

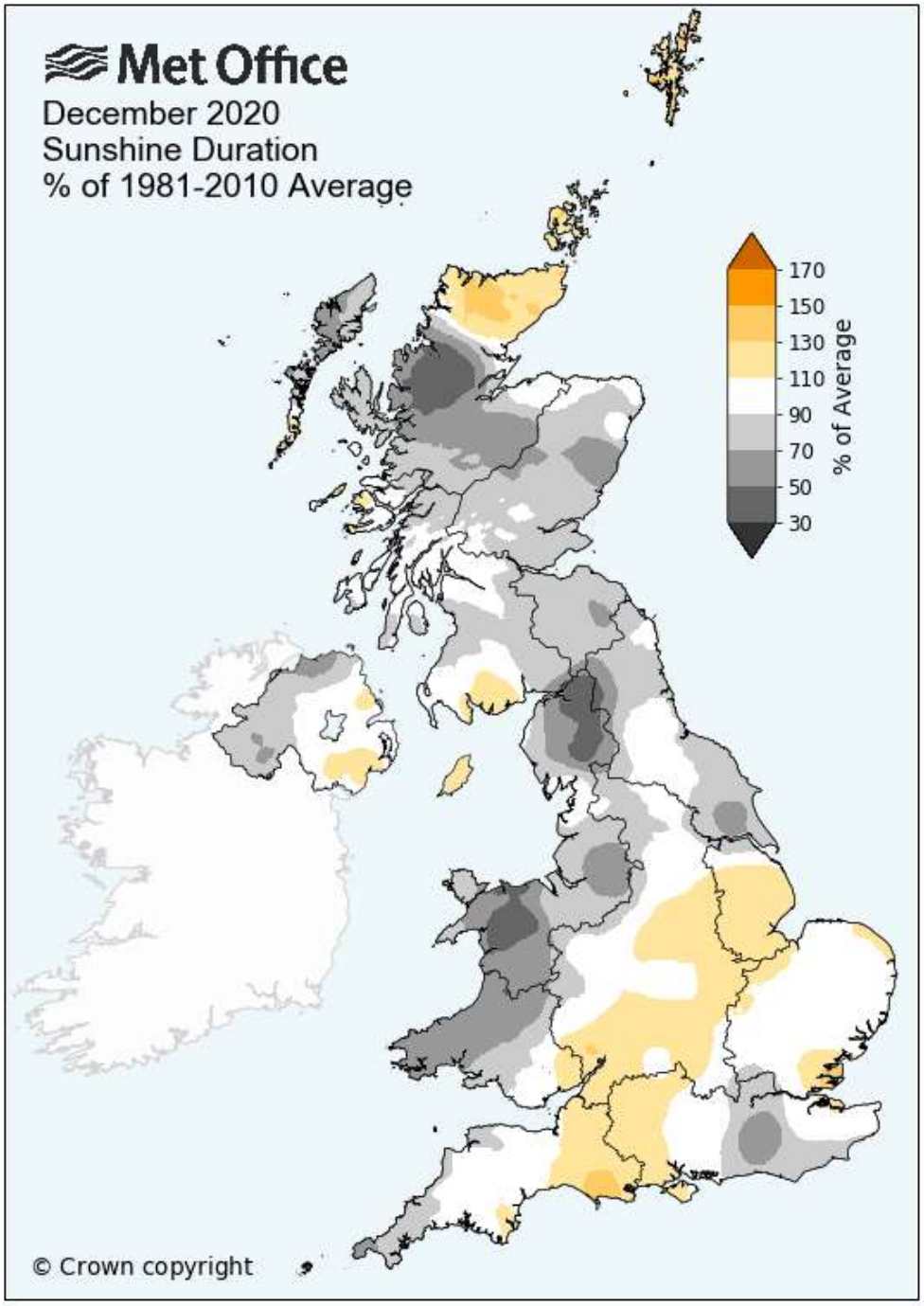


Sunshine

December sunshine totals were rather below normal across many parts of the UK with Wales receiving just 28.8 hours (69%) for the month. Counties Dorset and Orkney received the most sunshine with Dorset 125% (67.6 hours) and Orkney 125% (30.2 hours).

Provisional December figures for sunshine

Area	Actual rainfall	% of the December average
UK	37.8	93
England	26.5	98
Wales	28.8	69
Scotland	26.1	87
Northern Ireland	34.2	93



Temperatures

Overall, the month was a mild one with mean temperatures (24 hour total) for England, Wales and Scotland between + 0.4°C and + 0.6°C warmer than average. Northern Ireland remained close to normal being -0.1°C cooler than average.

Provisional December figures for temperature

Area	Maximum temperature		Minimum temperature	
	Actual °C	Difference from Dec average °C	Actual °C	Difference from Dec average °C
UK	6.8	0.2	1.9	0.8
England	7.4	0.2	2.2	0.7
Wales	7.4	0.2	2.4	0.7
Scotland	5.7	0.2	1.1	1.1
Northern Ireland	7.0	-0.4	1.9	0.1

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For the latest guidance to follow during the COVID-19 pandemic please visit the UK Government's coronavirus advice page. Those living in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can access country-specific advice.

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